



SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

As shown in Seaport Table 1, the Seaport seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased in July to 3.9 percent from June's rate of 4.1 percent. In July 2000, the rate was 4.1 percent.

In July, the Seaport's *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* decreased by 380 jobs because of temporary layoffs in *Manufacturing* and *Education*. Temporary layoffs in *Manufacturing* occurred because of slow markets. Layoffs were temporary with most laid off workers being idle for only a couple of weeks. *Manufacturing* employment is expected to bounce back in August. In addition to *Manufacturing*, *Education* also experienced temporary layoffs in July. *Education* layoffs were expected and followed seasonal trends because of summer vacation. Teachers will return to classrooms in August and September. On the plus side, two industries, *Food and Kindred Products* and *Construction*, created new jobs in July. Employment in *Food and Kindred Products* increased for the pea harvest and *Construction* increased because of new industrial developments. One of the new developments in industrial construction is the Bedrock Plaza project. The new plaza will be home to Home Depot. Other stores considering the new plaza include: Safeway, Applebee's, Barnes & Noble, Best Buy, Famous Footwear, Fashion Bug, Eddie Bauer, Gart Sports, Great Clips, Hallmark, Linens 'N Things, Michael's, Old Navy, Petco, Pier 1 Imports, Postal Annex, Quizno's Subs, Radio Shack, Rite Aid Pharmacies, Ross Dress For Less, TJ Maxx, and Washington Mutual.

SPECIAL TOPIC:

Craig-Wyden bill stabilizes some North Central Idaho counties

With few logs leaving federal land these days Idaho, Clearwater, and Lewis counties have experienced a double hit to tax revenues. First came a number of mill closures. On top of that, there has

Seaport Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Nez Perce County, Idaho, and Asotin County, Washington

	July 2001*	June 2001	July 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	35,640	34,650	34,300	2.9	3.9
Unemployment	1,370	1,420	1,400	-3.5	-2.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9	4.1	4.1		
Total Employment	34,270	33,230	32,900	3.1	4.2
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	35,530	34,620	34,190	2.6	3.9
Unemployment	1,240	1,360	1,290	-8.8	-3.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.5	3.9	3.8		
Total Employment	34,290	33,260	32,900	3.1	4.2
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	25,290	25,670	25,500	-1.5	-0.8
Goods-Producing Industries	5,100	5,180	5,590	-1.5	-8.8
Mining & Construction	1,430	1,300	1,350	10.0	5.9
Manufacturing	3,670	3,880	4,240	-5.4	-13.4
Food Processing	250	170	250	47.1	0.0
Lumber & Wood Products	730	720	740	1.4	-1.4
Paper Products	1,690	1,690	1,890	0.0	-10.6
All Other Manufacturing	1,000	1,300	1,360	-23.1	-26.5
Service-Producing Industries	20,190	20,490	19,910	-1.5	1.4
Transportation	1,380	1,340	1,360	3.0	1.5
Communications & Utilities	280	280	290	0.0	-3.4
Wholesale Trade	940	940	1,010	0.0	-6.9
Retail Trade	5,170	5,230	5,180	-1.1	-0.2
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,380	1,350	1,410	2.2	-2.1
Services	7,150	7,070	6,840	1.1	4.5
Government Administration	1,980	1,990	1,840	-0.5	7.6
Government Education	1,910	2,290	1,980	-16.6	-3.5
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

been a steady decline in tax revenue received from the sale of federal timber located within county borders. A new law enacted in 2000 is expected to bring some relief, however. Since the early 1900s, counties have been entitled to 25 percent of the money received from federal timber sales, which was used for schools, roads, and bridges. But federal timber sales have dropped from approximately 800 million board feet in 1989 to less than 200 million board feet in 2000. The corresponding revenue counties receive from those sales dropped by 75 percent. Idaho County in particular has seen its income from timber sales drop from more than \$6 million to \$1.4 million in 1999. This loss of funding resulted in drastic cutbacks in school and road budgets. But the Craig-Wyden bill, advanced in 2000 by senators Larry Craig, R-Idaho and Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, is designed to make up for some of the lost revenue that resulted from the decline in federal timber sales. The bill stabilizes timber sales payments by averaging the three highest payments from 1986 to 2000. That average determines what payment the counties receive for the next six years. As an ex-

ample, even though Idaho County received only \$1.4 million last year, it will receive \$4.8 million this year as a result of the averaging.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Clearwater County

- LightForce, a new business to Clearwater County, opened its doors in the spring of 2001 at 127 Wisconsin Street in Orofino. The business specializes in riflescopes for police/military and lighting fixtures for four-wheel drive vehicles. Currently, the company has six employees and plans to expand in the future.

Idaho County

- In response to the extensive wildfires throughout the west last summer, the National Marine Fisheries Service has hired a team of biologists to work with the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to implement the National Fire Plan. Dale Brege, a former Nez Perce National Forest employee who lived at the Slate Creek Ranger station for seven years, heads a new Grangeville field station, located at 102 North College. The office was expected to be fully operational by mid-August and should have four fire plan biologists. Brege also will hire permanent staff to work on non-fire plan habitat issues in North Central Idaho. The geographic area of responsibility extends from Lewiston to the Montana state line, and south to Riggins.
- A new business, Leap of Faith, has opened in Elk City. The new business offers a variety of soaps, lip balms, lotions, and bath salts in single sizes as well as gift baskets. Products are hand made in Elk City and are being marketed on the Internet. Some soap and lotion fragrances include: bay rum, cucumber, melon, mint, lavender lace, oatmeal, milk and honey, pear berries. Lewis and Clark special scents include cinnamon and cloves, sweet grass, and pipe tobacco.

Latah County

- Moscow's newest art gallery is in an unexpected place—the University of Idaho's North Central Business Technology Incubator. Thirty or more works of art by Moscow artists can be viewed in the incubator with new works rotated in every month. Staff at the incubator came up with the idea as a way of drawing people into the facility to see what the incubator has to offer. The incubator, managed by the Latah Economic Development Council, currently provides office and laboratory space as well as receptionist, and telephone answering services for 13 tenants.

Lewis County

- When Patrick and Cathleen Jacobs decided to open a new auto parts business in Kamiah, they weren't intimidated by the area's recent economic hardships. The Jacobs felt their timing was good because there aren't many competitors and, because of the economic slow down, people are choosing to keep their cars longer -- fixing them rather than buying new ones. The new store, Jacobs Auto Parts, is located at the old Cloningers store at 311 Main Street in Kamiah. It offers a full line of quality auto parts and accessories.

Nez Perce County

- Despite the slumping national economy, worker layoffs, and low corporate profits, the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley's welded jet boat manufacturers are riding along in mostly smooth water. All four of the major jet boat companies in the valley say they are unharmed by the economy or have recovered from earlier lulls. Although total employment has not increased in the first half of 2001, it is expected to increase in the last half of 2001 and into 2002. Product diversification and excellent fish runs have helped manufacturers predict a rosy future. Jet boats, which were designed originally for river running, now are used in oceans and lakes, and for camping, fishing, and water skiing.
- Big 5, a sporting goods chain, will open a store near Staples at 2310 Thain Road in Lewiston by the end of November in time for the holiday sales season. The company is the leading sporting goods retailer in the West and sells equipment and attire for tennis, golf, snowboarding, inline skating, and other sports. The new Lewiston store will employ 13 to 18 people, including three in management.

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